



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region



Terry Tamminen
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

January 8, 2004

Subject: TMDL Project Report for PCBs in San Francisco Bay

Dear Interested Party:

We are pleased to announce the official release of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project report for PCBs in San Francisco Bay. The report is an important milestone in the TMDL process and our effort to resolve impairment of San Francisco Bay by PCBs.

Numerous individuals and entities have contributed to this effort. We especially want to recognize the contribution of the Regional Monitoring Program and the San Francisco Estuary Institute. We also thank the Clean Estuary Partnership for its recent role in helping to reach this milestone, and its commitment to assist us in developing and implementing this and other TMDLs for San Francisco Bay. Finally, we also acknowledge the ongoing contributions of the PCBs Workgroup, which has met regularly during the development of this report and provided valuable information and feedback.

Submitting Comments

We welcome your comments and feedback regarding this report. The report can be downloaded from our web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/sfbaypcbstmtl.htm> (PDF file, 3.1 M). A limited number of hard copies are available upon request. Please submit written comments by **Friday, February 20** to Fred Hetzel by mail or e-mail, fh@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov. We will carefully consider all comments as we proceed with the TMDL process.

Next Steps

We will finalize the report based on comments received. At the same time, we will draft a Basin Plan Amendment to incorporate the proposed TMDL and implementation plan into the Basin Plan. We will then submit the proposed amendment and supporting staff report for scientific peer review. Peer review will be followed by public review, including a formal 45-day public comment period and staff response to comments. We anticipate presenting the draft Basin Plan Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) for consideration and possible adoption in August 2004. If adopted, the State Water Resources Control Board will consider the Basin Plan Amendment and, if approved, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will consider this TMDL. Stakeholder comments and concerns will continue to be considered at key milestones throughout the TMDL process.

Public Meeting

We have scheduled a stakeholder meeting, which will also serve as the CEQA scoping session for this project, on **Tuesday, February 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Auditorium (first floor) of the Elihu M. Harris State Building at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland**. You are invited to attend this meeting at which we will present an overview of the report and review and discuss questions and comments received by then. We strongly encourage you to submit discussion questions to us in advance of the meeting. We will also provide an opportunity to ask questions at the meeting, and hope to have a productive discussion of the major themes presented in the report.

Completion of this TMDL and resolving PCBs impairment of San Francisco Bay is one of the Water Board's highest priorities. We appreciate your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas Mumley
Planning & TMDL Division Chief

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